

Amendments to the Drawings

A replacement sheet for FIG. 2 is enclosed. The replacement sheet for FIG. 2 shows the changes made and replaces the original sheet. The drawings have been changed as follows:

FIG. 2 is now designated with a Prior Art legend.

REMARKS

Favorable review is requested in view of the following remarks. Replacement sheet for FIG. 2 is enclosed. Editorial amendments have been made to claims 1 and 14. Claims 14 – 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 – 10 and 16 – 18 are pending in the application.

Drawings

FIG. 2 was objected to for not including a legend identifying it as "Prior Art". FIG. 2 has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

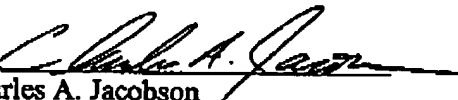
Claims 1 – 10 and 14 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Prior Art in FIG. 1 in view of Fries et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 requires a dam on opposing sides of each solder pad. Claim 16 requires at least two disconnected dam segments restricting flow of solder beyond a region relative to the solder pad. The Office Action relies upon Fries et al. to suggest a dam 64 and 120. The single pieced solder dams 64 and 120 disclosed in Fries et al. fail to restrict solder flow in opposing directions. Rather, for each pad 46 – 48 and 106 – 108 there is one solder dam 64 or 120. Fries et al. use the solder dams to inhibit flow of solder between the leads and the pads or simply from moving up along the microstrip conductors 118. See column 4, lines 35 – 37 and column 5, lines 20 – 25 and Figures 2 and 4 of Fries et al. Neither solder dam 64 or 120 protect against the flow of solder down the side wall of substrate 24. Therefore, Fries et al. do not teach or suggest having a dam on opposing sides of each solder pad or two disconnected dam segments restricting flow of solder beyond a region relative to the solder pad.

The dependent claims of claim 1 and 16 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and comments presented herein, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any further questions should arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

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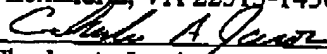
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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

Date of Deposit: March 14, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown above.


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